Vol. IX. Numb. 17

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the ſeditious Reports ſpread by the Faction, that Dr. Sacheverell *was acquitted, and the Impeachment of the Commons quaſh'd. The Proceedings of the Houſe juſtify'd by the Impeachment of* Dr. Manwaring. *A Letter from* Burnſtaple *in* Devon, *with an Account of the ſeditious Behaviour of the Faction in Church, and elſewhere, upon the News of the Meeting-houſes being deſtroy'd at* London, *by* Sacheverell's *Mob.*

From Saturday, March 11. to Wednesday, March 15. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT News about *Dr. Sacheverell* now, *Roger?* For I find his Party very uppiſh.

Country-m. Uppiſh, Maſter, you might have ſaid inſolent, or us'd a harder Expreſſion; for ſuch a Faction, all Things conſider'd, never appear'd in *England:* But as to the Doctor. The Party handed about a Paper on *Friday* Night, by which they endeavour'd to poſſeſs the Minds of their ignorant, malicious, and bigotted Followers, that the Indictment, as they thought fit to call the Impeachment of the Commons, was to be quaſh'd, becauſe the Articles did not contain all the Particulars of the Charge againſt him. They boaſted, that the Judges had given their Opinion for him, and on *Saturday* publiſh'd it all over the Town, that the Doctor was acquitted, the Commons nonſuited, and their Impeachment baffl'd; but to their great Mortification it proves otherwiſe; for the Doctor is to be proſecuted, as he has already been, according to the Laws of the Land, and the Uſage of Parliament; ſo that inſtead of being acquitted, I take his Caſe to be worſe than ever.

Obſ. Alas! poor Wretches! This is not the firſt Time they have lean'd on a broken Read: But let it pierce their Hands ever ſo often, they will not be convinc'd of their Folly, 'till it pierce their Hearts. Did they think the Commons of *Great Britain* ſo weak, as not to know the Method and Nature of Impeachments? Could the Managers, among whom there are ſome of the greateſt Lawyers in the Kingdom, and who have given ſuch Proofs of their Ability and Zeal in the Proſecution, be ſuppos'd capable of taking ſuch falſe Steps, as would be a Reproach to every common Practitioner of the Law? Is the Faction ſo ignorant, as not to know yet that there's a great Difference between a Parliamentary Impeachment, and a common Indictment; or to think, that the ſupream Legiſlature of the Nation, who give Laws and Rules to all other Courts, puniſh them for tranſgreſſing the ſame, and reverſe their Sentences when unjuſt, are to receive Preſcriptions from others in their own Methods of Proceeding; or that they who make the Laws, have not the ſole Power of interpreting them? This only ſerves to diſcover the high-wrought Malice and Folly of the Party, which is now come to ſuch a Degree of Madneſs, as is beyond the Power of Hellebore.

Country-m. Aye, but, Maſter, they ſay the Parliament proceeds in ſuch Caſes according to Precedents, and that there is none to juſtify this Way of Proceeding againſt the Doctor.

Obſ. That's like the reſt of the ſilly idle Stories they have all along ſupported themſelves with, *Roger.* There's a parallel Precedent in the Caſe of *Dr. Manwaring*, a Perſon of the ſame ill Principles and Practices with *Sacheverell*, as we have it in *Ruſhworth's* Collections, *Edit.* 1659. Vol. 1. p. 601. where the Commons gave in a Declaration to the Lords againſt *Manwaring*, conſiſting of three Articles, which charge him in general 'with perſwa-'ding the King, that he was not bound to keep 'and obſerve the good Laws and Cuſtoms of this 'Realm, concerning the Rights and Liberties of the 'Subjects, and that his Royal Will and Command 'in impoſing Loans and Taxes, and other Aids 'upon his People, without common Conſent in 'Parliament, doth ſo far bind the Conſciences of 'the Subjects, that they cannot refuſe the ſame 'without Peril of eternal Damnation. Secondly, 'That thoſe of his Majeſty's loving Subjects which 'refus'd the ſaid Loan, did therein offend againſt 'the Law of God, againſt his Majeſty's ſupream 'Authority, and by ſo doing became guilty of Impiety, Diſloyalty, Rebellion, and Diſobedience, 'and liable to many other Taxes and Cenſures, 'which he, in the ſeveral Parts of his Book, doth 'moſt falſely and maliciouſly lay upon them. Thirdly, That Authority of Parliaments is not neceſſary for the raiſing of Aids and Subſidies; and that 'the ſlow Proceedings of ſuch Aſſemblies, are not 'fit for the Supply of the urgent Neceſſities of the 'State, but rather apt to produce ſundry Impediments to the juſt Deſigns of Princes, and to give 'them Occaſion of Diſpleaſure and Diſcontent.

'All which (the Commons ſaid) they were ready to prove, not only by the general Scope of the 'ſame Sermons and Book, entitl'd, *Religion and Allegiance*, but likewiſe by ſeveral Clauſes, Aſſertions, and Sentences therein contain'd.

Now, every Man who caſts his Eye upon thoſe Sermons, which have been lately publiſh'd, will find, that the Commons did not trouble themſelves to quote his very Words in their Articles, but founded their Charge upon the general Scope of them, and referr'd the particular Clauſes, Aſſertions, and Sentences, to their Proof at the Tryal: So that here's a parallel Preſident full againſt them, *Roger*, and the Lords and Commons were ſo far from accounting the Doctor's Submiſſion with Tears and Grief a Satisfaction for his great Offence, that he was ſentenc'd to be impriſon'd during Pleaſure, to be fin'd in 1000 *l.* to make a Submiſſion in the Houſe, and at the Bar in Words, drawn up by the Commons, to be ſuſpended for three Years from the Miniſtry, and another to be paid out of his Livings to ſerve the Cure, that he ſhould be diſabl'd from having any Eccleſiaſtical Dignity, or Secular Office, that he ſhould be diſabl'd to preach at Court, that his Book ſhould be burn'd in *London* and both Univerſities, call'd in by Proclamation, and printed no more.

Country-m. That's a Precedent with a Witneſs, Maſter, and much ſtronger in the preſent Caſe, becauſe ſo many of the Doctor's own Words are quoted in the Articles, as were neceſſary to juſtify the Truth of 'em; whereas in the Charge againſt *Manwaring*, the Commons rather gave his Senſe than his Words, and prov'd it afterwards by the particular Clauſes, *&c.* Now, ſince the Lords paſs'd ſuch a Cenſure upon the Doctor, notwithſtanding his Submiſſion with Tears, and his Recantation according to the Form preſcrib'd by the Commons, I don't ſee what Reaſon *Sacheverell* has to expect any Thing leſs, than the utmoſt Rigor of Law, ſince he has triſl'd with the Lords and Commons, tripl'd his Crime by his Obſtinacy, inſulted them by his coming to the Houſe in Parade, with a Mob of Papiſts,

Papiſts, Nonjurors, and Jacobites attending him, who at laſt broke out into open Rebellion, aſſaulted our Lords and Commons, and other peaceable Subjects in the Streets, burnt and broke open Houſes, and put the Government, the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and Burrough of *Southwark*, to ſuch a Charge for ſuppreſſing them.

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*. Nor is it very much for the Honour of the Doctor and his Faction, that as they prompted ſuch a Mob to an open Rebellion, their chief Advocates are known to be Perſons that were all along Enemies to the *Engliſh* Liberties; ſome of 'em have the Blood of the Lord *Ruſſel*, Colonel *Sidney*, &c. to anſwer for; others of 'em, with their ſly and ſuperficial Rhetorick, oppos'd the Revolution and Abdication, and by their Miſmanagement, to give it no harder Word, occaſion'd ſeveral Diſgraces to the Kingdom by our publick Enemies. *Parker*, and others, who were engag'd in a Plot to aſſaſſinate the late Queen *Mary*, of glorious Memory, eſcap'd by the Neglect or Knavery of the Tools they employ'd to ſeize them; and 'tis well-enough known, that they have been Encouragers of thoſe ſlaviſh, ſeditious, and uncharitable Principles, for which the Doctor ſtands now impeach'd. But let them alone, *Roger*, 'tis their Misfortune to diſcover themſelves every Day more and more; ſo that their form'd Deſign againſt the Government, will appear plain at laſt. In the mean Time, 'tis unaccountable Boldneſs for any Man to appear thus in Defence of this Pulpit-Incendiary againſt the ſupream Juſtice of the Nation, or to arraign the Wiſdom and Legality of their Proceedings.

Country-m. Theſe Things keep the Faction in Heart, Maſter, 'till there be Occaſion for 'em to make new Efforts. Here's a Letter from *Barnſtaple* in *Devon*, with an Account that the Party is become ſo inſolent, as thoſe who would live quiet and peaceably, can't appear there, without being taunted and reproach'd in *Sacheverell*'s Language, *as damn'd Schiſmaticks*, &c. It adds, that their drunken high-flying Serjeant, who drank *Sacheverell*'s Health after three O Yes's, at the High-Croſs there on the Market-Day, was prompted to it by three high-flying young Clergy-men, the Parſons of *Tranton*, *Combmartin*, and *Stoke*, and others, who ſpent 5 *s.* a Man at his Houſe in Tipple, and each of *Sacheverell*'s Mob he brought Home with him, ſpent their 2 *d.* apiece, to oblige this ſeditious Fellow, who is the only Perſon there that has *Dyer*'s *Letter*, and therefore all the high-flying Tribe of the Town and Country flock thither, to be regal'd with his inſolent and reflecting Language. The Magiſtrates of the Town have been acquainted with the ſeditious Behaviour of their Serjeant, but take no Notice of it; yet I think this Fellow deſerves to be puniſh'd in another Manner, than a poor ignorant Country-Man, who for ſummoning together his Creditors by O Yes at three Market-Towns, to come and receive their Debts, was puniſh'd by Impriſonment and Fine, as I think I have heard the Story, Maſter, from ſome of our Law-Books. This is intollerable that Clergy-men ſhould excite any publick Servant of a Corporation to ſummon Fellows together in this Manner, to inſult the Legiſlature upon the Tryal of an Incendiary, yet he is ſo far from being puniſh'd for it, or aſham'd of it, that he wiſhes he were in *Sacheverell*'s Caſe. The honeſt Gentleman gives us likewiſe an Account, Maſter, that when the News arriv'd there on the 6th, that *Sacheverell*'s Mob had deſtroy'd ſeveral Meeting-houſes at *London*, the Faction run mad at Publick-Houſes, huzza'd, threw up their Hats, nay, they could not forbear diſcourſing of it at Church during the Time of Worſhip, and to expreſs their Joy at it, to the great Scandal of thoſe who were ſerious at their Devotion; and they profan'd the Sabbath, by drinking all the Afternoon, and their execrable Health was, damn the Low-Church and Diſſenters; ſo that it appears plain by their Words and Behaviour, that they are ripe for a Rebellion, were there any to head them.

Obſ. A pretty Story indeed, *Roger*. The Gentlemen ſhould ſend atteſted Accounts of thoſe Things to our Secretaries of State, that the Criminals may be proſecuted according to due Courſe of Law, if the Juſtices of Peace in thoſe Parts han't Honeſty enough to do it. In the mean Time, we may ſee how the Infection ſpreads, no Thanks to our *London*-Rebels, that their Brethren in the Country did not follow their Example; they were in great Hopes they would, and ſpread it all over the Town themſelves, that they had done it, in order to heighten our Conſternation, and to ſtop the Courſe of Juſtice againſt their Trumpeter of Sedition; but bleſſed be God their Strength does not anſwer their Inclinations; and we have no Reaſon to doubt, but her Majeſty's Proclamation, and the Addreſs of our noble Patriots the Commons, have put Water in their Wine thro' the Country, as it has done in the City. In the mean Time, 'tis well that they have diſcover'd themſelves thus while the Parliament is ſitting, and that they made moderate Church-men, as well as Diſſenters, the Objects of their Fury. The natural Effect of which muſt be, to make them unite more cloſely for their mutual Defence, ſince 'tis evident, that *Sacheverell* and the reſt of the high-flying Faction, with their Brethren the Nonjurants and Papiſts, have given both of 'em ſuch Characters in their Sermons and Libels, as tended to ſtir up the Mob to cut their Throats, as well as to burn and rifle their Houſes.

So that upon the whole, *Roger*, we may addreſs our ſelves to the Faction, as *Philippus* in *Saluſt* did to *Lepidus*, 'Since you are not aſham'd of your Outrages a-'gainſt both God and Man, to whom you have offer'd 'Violence by Perjury and Treachery, go on as you 'have begun, and don't keep us in Suſpence: Out with 'your long-contriv'd Seditions, that ſince neither our 'Country, our Laws, nor our Religion can allow you 'the Title of good Subjects, you may receive your de-'ſerv'd Puniſhment as ſoon as poſſible. We might in like Manner have addreſs'd our Parliament as that brave *Roman* did the Senate, 'Since the Faction wants no-'thing but a Leader, moſt noble Senators, to overturn 'the Government, we beſeech and obteſt you, that you 'would cenſure them, and not ſuffer the Inſolence of a 'few wicked Wretches to infect the whole Kingdom 'with Madneſs. But bleſſed be God our Senate has prevented us, and have already remov'd the Symptoms, 'till they can find out a proper Medicine to pluck the Diſtemper up by the Roots.

Advertiſements.

Yeſterday was publiſh'd,

☞ A Weekly Paper, entitl'd, Athenian News, or Dunton's Oracle, to be continu'd every Tueſday and Saturday in 5000 diſtinct Poſts. The Poſts already publiſh'd are, 1. Dunton's Poſt, or his dying Farewel to this Life and World. 2. The Mob-Poſt, or the ſecret Hiſtory of Sacheverelism, with a ſurprizing Anagram on Dr. Sacheverell's Name. 3. The Whipping-Poſt, or a War with Vice and Error, but more eſpecially with ſuch Authors that are dull, ignorant, noiſy, and impertinent. Numb. 4. will be publiſh'd on Saturday, entitl'd, The Lying-Poſt, or Fictions prov'd Realities, by Way of Paradox; the Paradoxes in this Poſt are to Money: They feel no Pain that have the Stone, Gout, or Cholick, or any other torturing Diſeaſe. 2. That the Britiſh Apollo's pretended Satyr on Dunton's Oracle was a real Panegyrick upon it, with Reaſons ſhewing the Neceſſity and Juſtice of re-anſwering all the Queſtions he has yet publiſh'd. This is farther to give Notice, that the Perſon of Quality who promiſes to give away 500 of Dunton's dying Farewel to Honour, Riches, and Pleaſure, may ſee the Manuſcript Copy of it about two Weeks hence at the Sword in New-ſtreet; and I deſign my ſelf to give gratis 1000 of the Preaching-Poſt to the moſt eminent Clergy in the Queen's Dominions, being willing Dunton's Oracle ſhould live or die by the Judgment of Men of the brighteſt Parts. And that the young Ladies and facetious Gentlemen may not think I forget 'em, I ſhall ſpeedily publiſh my Courting-Poſt, or News for the Ladies. So'd by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall.

☞ Over the Paſſage going into the Queen's-Arms-Tavern on Ludgate-hill, is lately open'd a new Diſpenſary by a Society of Phyſicians, who have provided a ſecret Cabinet of the beſt Medicines adapted to all Diſeaſes, as particularly ſpecify'd by their printed Bills, not deliver'd in the Streets, like Pretenders, who boaſt of performing Cures they never underſtood the Cauſes of, but diſtributed to every dwelling Houſe, to inform the Publick of their Intentions; for whoſe Satisfaction and Benefit they have ſettl'd the Prizes of their Advice and Medicines in each Caſe, that all Houſe-keepers and others may know their Charges beforehand.

☞ TINCTURA CÆLESTIS. The celebrated Medicine of the Age for many Years paſt, as an effectual Remedy in moſt chronical Diſeaſes, to which moſt part of this Nation can give ample Teſtimony, but moſt particularly in the Stone of the Reins and Bladder, (in which its Virtues have been lately ſignaliz'd) in the Gout, Rheumatiſm, and all Joint Pains, Dropſy, Scurvy, Obſtruction of the Stomach, Liver, Spleen, Meſentary, and other Bowels, whereby Concoction is hinder'd, and infinite Diſeaſes are propagated, relieving alſo ſuch as are afflicted with Vapours, and Fumes ariſing to the Head, which being fix'd thereto, cauſe Head-ach, Dizzineſs, Epilepſy, Appoplexy, and other dangerous and deplorable Diſeaſes. It is prepar'd by the Author, at the Golden Head in Blue Ball Court in Saliſbury-Square in Fleet-ſtreet; and ſold at 1 s. and 2 s. 6 d. the Bottles, and Directions how to uſe it.

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